

THE  
**MARYLAND GAZETTE,**

*Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.*

THURSDAY, January 2, 1752.

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A late Act of Parliament being made, for altering the stile, and correcting the Calendar, which relates to all the Dominions of Great-Britain, we imagine Nothing can be more proper to give to the Public at this Time.

*An ACT for regulating the Commencement of the Year, and for correcting the Calendar now in Use.*

**W**HEREAS the legal Supputation of the Year of our Lord in that Part of Great-Britain called England, according to which the Year beginneth on the Twenty-fifth Day of March, hath been found by Experience to be attended with divers Inconveniencies, not only as it differs from the Usage of neighbouring Nations, but also from the legal Method of Computation in that Part of Great-Britain called Scotland, and from the common Usage throughout the whole Kingdom, whereby frequent Mistakes are occasioned in the Dates of Deeds, and other Writings, and Disputes arise therefrom.

And whereas the Calendar now in Use throughout all his Majesty's British Dominions, commonly called *The Julian Calendar*, hath been discovered to be erroneous, by Means whereof the Vernal or Spring Equinox, which at the Time of the General Council of Nice, in the Year of our Lord Three hundred and twenty-five, happened on or about the Twenty-first Day of March, now happens on the ninth or tenth Day of the same Month; and the said Error is still encreasing; and if not remedied, would, in Process of Time, occasion the several Equinoxes and Solstices to fall at very different Times in the Civil Year from what they formerly did, which might tend to mislead Persons ignorant of the said Alteration.

And whereas a Method of correcting the Calendar in such Manner, as that the Equinoxes and Solstices may for the future fall nearly on the same Nominal Days, on which the same happened at the Time of the said General Council, hath been received and established, and is now generally practised by almost all other Nations of Europe.

And whereas it will be of general Convenience to Merchants, and other Persons corresponding with other Nations and Countries, and tend to prevent Mistakes and Disputes in or concerning the Dates of Letters, and Accounts, if the like Correction be received and established in his Majesty's Dominions;

May it therefore please your MAJESTY, That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted, by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That in and throughout all his Majesty's Dominions and Countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, belonging or subject to the Crown of Great-Britain, the said Supputation, according to which the Year of our Lord beginneth on the Twenty-fifth Day of March, shall not be made use of from and after the last Day of December, 1751; and that the first Day of January, next following the said last Day of December, shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year of our Lord 1752; and the first Day of January, which shall happen next after the said first Day of January, 1752, shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year of our Lord, 1753; and so on from Time to Time, the first Day of January in every Year, which shall happen in Time to come, shall

be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year; and that each New Year shall accordingly commence, and begin to be reckoned, from the first Day of every such Month of January next preceding the Twenty-fifth Day of March, on which such Year would, according to the present Supputation, have begun or commenced: And that from and after the said first Day of January, 1752, the several Days of each Month shall go on, and be reckoned and numbered in the same Order; and the Feast of Easter, and other Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall be ascertained according to the same Method, as they now are, until the second Day of September, in the said Year 1752 inclusive; and that the Natural Day next immediately following the said second Day of September, shall be called, reckoned, and accounted, to be the fourteenth Day of September, omitting for that Time only the eleven intermediate Nominal Days of the common Calendar; and that the several Natural Days, which shall follow and succeed next after the said fourteenth Day of September, shall be respectively called, reckoned, and numbered forwards in Numerical Order from the said fourteenth Day of September, according to the Order and Succession of Days now used in the present Calendar; and that all Acts, Deeds, Writings, Notes, and other Instruments of what Nature or Kind soever, whether Ecclesiastical or Civil, Public or Private, which shall be made, executed, or signed, upon or after the said first Day of January, 1752, shall bear Date according to the said new Method of Supputation, and that the two fixed Terms of Saint Hilary, and Saint Michael, in that Part of Great-Britain called England, and the Courts of Great Sessions in the Counties Palatine, and in Wales, and also the Courts of General Quarter Sessions, and General Sessions of the Peace, and all other Courts of what Nature or Kind soever, whether Civil, Criminal, or Ecclesiastical, and all Meetings and Assemblies of any Bodies Politic or Corporate, either for the Election of any Officers or Members thereof, or for any such Officers entering upon the Execution of their respective Offices, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, which by any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage within this Kingdom, or within any other the Dominions or Countries subject or belonging to the Crown of Great-Britain, are to be holden and kept on any fixed or certain Day of any Month, or on any Day depending upon the Beginning or any certain Day of any Month (except such Courts as are usually holden or kept with any Fairs or Markets) shall from Time to Time, from and after the said second Day of September, be holden and kept upon or according to the same respective Nominal Days and Times, whereon or according to which the same are now to be holden, but which shall be computed according to the said new Method of numbering and reckoning the Days of the Calendar as aforesaid; that is to say, eleven Days sooner than the respective Days whereon the same are now holden and kept; any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And, for the continuing and preserving the Calendar, or Method of Reckoning, and computing the Days of the Year in the same regular Course, as near as may be, in all Times coming; Be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Years of our Lord 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, or any other hundredth Years of our Lord, which shall happen in Time to come, except only every fourth hundredth Year of our Lord, whereof the Year of our Lord 2000 shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be Bissextile or Leap Years, but shall be taken to be common Years, consisting of 365 Days; and no more; and that the Years of our Lord 2000, 2400, 2800, and every other fourth hundredth Year of our Lord, from the said Year of our Lord

2000 inclusive, and also all other Years of our Lord, which by the present Supputation are esteemed to be Bissextile or Leap Years, shall for the future, and in all Times to come, be esteemed and taken to be Bissextile or Leap Years, consisting of 366 Days, in the same Sort and Manner as is now used with respect to every fourth Year of our Lord.

And whereas according to the Rule prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, Easter day is always the first Sunday after the first Full-Moon which happens next after the One and twentieth Day of March, and if the Full Moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after; which Rule was made in Conformity to the Decree of the said General Council of Nice, for the Celebration of the said Feast of Easter: And whereas the Method of computing the Full Moons now used in the Church of England, and according to which the Table to find Easter for ever, prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer, is formed, is by Process of Time become considerably erroneous: And whereas a Calendar, and also certain Tables and Rules for the fixing the true Time of the Celebration of the said Feast of Easter, and the finding the Times of the Full Moons, on which the same dependeth, so as the same shall agree as nearly as may be with the Decree of the said General Council, and also with the Practice of Foreign Countries, have been prepared; Be it therefore further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Feast of Easter, or any of the Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall, from and after the said second Day of September, be no longer kept or observed in that Part of Great-Britain called England, or in any other the Dominions or Countries subject or belonging to the Crown of Great-Britain, according to the said Method of Supputation now used, or the said Table prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer; and that the said Table, and also the Column of Golden Numbers, as they are now prefixed to the respective Days of the Month in the said Calendar, shall be left out in all future Editions of the said Book of Common Prayer; and that the said New Calendar, Tables, and Rules, shall be prefixed to all such future Editions of the said Book, in the Room and Stead thereof; and that from and after the said second Day of September, all and every the fixed Feast-days, Holy-days, and Fast-days, which are now kept and observed by the Church of England, and also the several solemn Days of Thanksgiving, and of Fasting and Humiliation, which by Virtue of any Act of Parliament now in being, are, from Time to Time, to be kept and observed, shall be kept and observed on the respective Days marked for the Celebration of the same in the said New Calendar; that is to say, On the same respective Nominal Days on which the same are now kept and observed; but which according to the Alteration by this Act intended to be made, as aforesaid, will happen eleven Days sooner than the same now do; and that the said Feast of Easter, and all other Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall, from Time to Time, be observed and celebrated according to the said New Calendar, Tables, and Rules, in that Part of Great-Britain called England, and in all the Dominions and Countries aforesaid, wherein the Liturgy of the Church of England now is, or hereafter shall be used; and that the two Moveable Terms of Easter and Trinity, and all Courts of what Nature or Kind soever, and all Meetings and Assemblies of any Bodies Politic or Corporate, and all Markets, Fairs, and Markets and Courts thereunto belonging, which by any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage, are appointed, used, or accustomed to be holden and kept at any Moveable Time or Times depending upon the Time of Easter, or any other such Moveable Feast as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, from and after the said second Day of September, be holden